



University of Venda

# UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

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## POLICY ON STUDENT GATHERINGS/DEMONSTRATIONS

### APPROVED POLICY

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**Date stamp and signature by the Vice-Chancellor and Principals**

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## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy and its rules, guidelines and procedures replace all previous policies and/or circulars pertaining to student gatherings.

The policy further aims to define categories, responsibilities and compliance procedures and regulations for student gatherings.

The policy shall be read in conjunction with the REGULATION OF GATHERINGS ACT 205 OF 1993 as amended by the SAFETY MATTERS RATIONALISATION ACT 90 OF 1996.

## 2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The following guidelines shall be used to regulate the holding of public gatherings/demonstrations within University premises and to provide for matters connected to it:

- 2.1 Definitions
- 2.2 Categories
- 2.3 Restrictions
- 2.4 Responsibilities
- 2.5 Processes

### 2.1 DEFINITIONS

#### **Demonstration:**

- 2.1.1 A gathering of persons to demonstrate their feelings about some specific cause, when the number of participants is less than fifteen (15).

#### **2.1.2 Gathering:**

When more than [15] fifteen people (excluding classes) decide to be part of a meeting, or rally, which they hold on University premises, the University will regard it as a gathering.

#### **2.1.3 Convener:**

A student who, on behalf of an approved organisation convenes a gathering or demonstration.

#### **2.1.4 Resolution:**

The determination and approval of this policy shall bear reference to resolution of EMC and Council.

## **2.2 CATEGORIES**

Only registered students can participate in demonstrations/ gatherings held within University premises. Notwithstanding provisions of 2.2.1(c)

### **2.2.1 COMPLIANCE**

- a) Only registered students shall participate in officially approved demonstrations/ gatherings within UNIVEN premises.
- b) The approved demonstrations/gatherings shall comply with University rules and regulations and the Regulations of Gathering Act (Act 205 of 1993) as amended.
- c) Invited guests shall be allowed to participate in officially approved gatherings if their invitation was indicated upon applying for the demonstration/gathering

## **2.3. RESTRICTIONS**

The following will be regarded as transgressions, and therefore be subjected to University disciplinary code, as contained in the Rules and Regulations of UNIVEN.

- a) Disruption of classes
- b) Intimidation of fellow students, including assault
- c) Damage to University property
- d) Dumping of rubbish on University premises
- e) Sit-ins and hostage taking
- f) Use of crude and abusive language or offensive gestures
- g) Comments or public pronouncements that are detrimental to the image of the University

## **2.4. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

University responsibility will be conferred on the following officials:-

- 2.4.1 Office of the Director: Student Affairs in the University or his/her alternate and the office of the University Registrar or his /her alternate for the approval of the demonstration /gathering. Such responsibility shall include the authority to prohibit a demonstration/gathering in circumstances indicating damage to property, injury to persons, etc.
- 2.4.2 The Office of the University Registrar is responsible for approving the venue of the gathering, the route and when necessary the allocation of security personnel.
- 2.4.3 The Office of the University Registrar will be responsible for monitoring and assessing security risk during the gathering.
- 2.4.4 The applicants shall be held liable for actions, behavior and consequences of the gathering.

## **2.5. PROCESS**

- 2.5.1 When students or student structures wish to demonstrate, they must notify the SRC of their intention to do so within three (3) University calendar days prior to the event.
- 2.5.2 The SRC reserves the right to approve or disapprove an application by a student structure for a demonstration or gathering.
- 2.5.1 The Student Structure should inform the SRC, and Student Governance and Accommodation Office of the reason for planned demonstration or gathering within five (5) University working days. This period will allow the University to exhaust all mechanisms applicable within the University in terms of dispute resolutions.
- 2.5.4 Should the student structure not be satisfied with the University management's response or attempts to resolve the dispute, the student/structure should complete an application form, submit it for approval through the SRC to the Director: Student Affairs or his/her alternate in three (3) University working days.
- 2.5.5 The application approved by the Director: Student Affairs should be submitted to the Office of the University Registrar for co-approval. The office of the University Registrar will allocate, arrange and facilitate security measures and personnel, planning of routes for the demonstrations/ protests/gatherings, and where applicable Law enforcement agencies (SANDF/SAPS/Metro Police).

- 2.5.6 Student Organizations can appeal (in writing) the SRA's decision as contemplated in 5.2 through Student Governance and Accommodation Office to the Office of the Director: Student Affairs for a decision on the matter.

## **2.6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### 2.6.1 First layer resolution

The disputed matters that warrant a gathering shall first be heard by the relevant section/ directorate/School  
Matters that are subject of the dispute will have to be resolved within three days of them being registered.

### 2.6.2 Second layer resolution

In respect of disputes of a non-academic nature all unresolved disputes shall be referred to the Office of the Director: Student Affairs for redress.  
In matters relating to academic activities the Dean responsible will be the applicable line function. The dispute should be resolved within three working days once it is lodged at this level.

### 2.6.3 Third layer resolution

All disputes not resolved at the second layer resolution should be referred to an applicable EMC member for consideration and possible resolution.

This level includes the office of the Vice Chancellor and Principal. Any structure not satisfied at this level has the right to apply for a student gathering as contemplated in this policy.